



# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Caltrans Breaks Ground on Highway 46/41 “Wye” Project**

*Project made possible by more than \$97 million in federal IIJA funding*

**CHOLAME, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY** – Caltrans joined local civic and transportation leaders today to celebrate the widening of part of Highway 46 to four lanes and construction of a new interchange at Highway 41 to increase safety. The \$148 million project received more than \$97 million in funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021.

“Safety is the top priority of Caltrans, and these improvements will lead to safer, more secure experience for all travelers,” said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. “President Biden signing the federal infrastructure funding law, and Governor Newsom’s laser focus on Rebuilding California, have ushered in a new era of transportation investment in California, and this project is just one example of the impact it is having.”

The project, which represents a partnership between Caltrans, San Luis Obispo County and the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, will widen nearly four miles of Highway 46 from west of Davis Road to west of Antelope Road, creating a four-lane divided expressway. A new, grade-separated interchange will be built at the Highway 46/Highway 41 “Wye” to provide a safer option than the current at-grade intersection. The project is designed to improve safety by increasing areas for passing, better accommodating existing truck traffic, minimizing crashes, expanding passing areas, and reducing existing and future peak-hour congestion.

“Highway 46 is a key east-west corridor that links the Central Coast and the San Joaquin Valley,” said Caltrans District 5 Director Scott Eades. “Traffic will flow more smoothly with these safety and efficiency upgrades.”

This project follows the widening of five miles of Highway 46 East from the Shandon Rest Area to east of the Jack Ranch Cafe. Four additional phases were completed over the past decade from Paso Robles leading to the Highway 46/41 intersection. A final segment will span a 3.5-mile stretch of Highway 46 East along the Antelope Grade in San Luis Obispo County to near the Kern County line. Upon completion, Highway 46 East will be a 4-lane divided expressway from U.S. 101 in Paso Robles to I-5 near Lost Hills, Kern County.



Atkinson Construction of Irvine is the contractor on the three-year project.

The IIJA, also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” is a once-in-a-generation investment in the nation's infrastructure and competitiveness. California receives federal infrastructure funding based on formula and competitive grants. Based on formula funding alone, the IIJA will bring California an estimated \$41.9 billion over five years.

Since November 2021, California has received nearly \$19 billion in federal infrastructure funding. That includes \$14.8 billion in federal transportation funding to upgrade the state's roads, bridges, rail, public transit, airports, electric vehicle charging network, ports and waterways. These transportation investments alone have already created more than 42,000 jobs. For more information about California transportation projects funded by the IIJA and SB 1, visit [RebuildingCA.ca.gov](https://RebuildingCA.ca.gov).

For more information on state highways in San Luis Obispo County, please visit the [District 5 website](#) or the [project website](#).

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